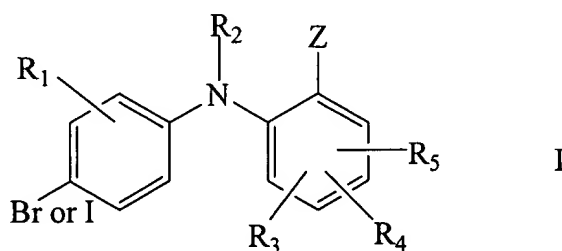


This listing of the claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

**Listing of Claims:**

Claims 1-5 (cancelled).

Claim 6 (previously presented): A method for treating arthritis comprising administering to a patient suffering from arthritis and effective antiarthritic amount of a MEK inhibitor, wherein the MEK inhibitor is a compound of Formula I



wherein:

$R_1$  is hydrogen, hydroxy,  $C_1$ - $C_8$  alkyl,  $C_1$ - $C_8$  alkoxy, halo, trifluoromethyl, or CN;

$R_2$  is hydrogen ;

$R_3$ ,  $R_4$ , and  $R_5$  independently are hydrogen, hydroxy, halo, trifluoromethyl,  $C_1$ - $C_8$  alkyl,  $C_1$ - $C_8$  alkoxy, nitro, CN, or  $-(O \text{ or } NH)_m-(CH_2)_n-R_9$ , where  $R_9$  is hydrogen, hydroxy, COOH, or  $NR_{10}R_{11}$ ;

$n$  is 0-4;

$m$  is 0 or 1;

$R_{10}$  and  $R_{11}$  independently are hydrogen or  $C_1$ - $C_8$  alkyl, or taken together with the nitrogen to which they are attached can complete a 3-10 member cyclic ring optionally containing 1, 2, or 3 additional heteroatoms selected from O, S, NH, or N- $C_1$ - $C_8$  alkyl;

$Z$  is  $COOR_7$ , tetrazolyl,  $CONR_6R_7$ ,  $CONHNR_{10}R_{11}$ , or  $CH_2OR_7$ ;

$R_6$  and  $R_7$  independently are hydrogen,  $C_1$ - $C_8$  alkyl,  $C_2$ - $C_8$  alkenyl,  $C_2$ - $C_8$  alkynyl, (CO)- $C_1$ - $C_8$  alkyl, aryl, heteroaryl, or  $C_3$ - $C_{10}$  cycloalkyl optionally containing one, two,

or three heteroatoms selected from O, S, NH, or N alkyl; or R<sub>6</sub> and R<sub>7</sub> together with the nitrogen to which they are attached complete a 3-10 member cyclic ring optionally containing 1,2, or 3 additional heteroatoms selected from O, S, NH, or N alkyl; and wherein any of the foregoing alkyl, alkenyl, aryl, heterocyclic, and alkynyl groups can be unsubstituted or substituted by halo, hydroxy, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub> alkoxy, amino, nitro, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkylamino, di(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>) alkylamino, C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>6</sub> cycloalkyl, phenyl, phenoxy, C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>5</sub> heteroaryl, or C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>5</sub> heteroaryloxy; or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt, ester, amide, or prodrug thereof.

Claim 7 (currently amended): The method according to Claim 6 wherein the MEK inhibitor is a compound selected from:

[4-Chloro-2-(1H-tetrazol-5-yl)-phenyl-(4-iodo-2-methyl-phenyl)-amine;  
(4-iodo-2-methyl-phenyl)-[2-(1H-tetrazol-5-yl)-phenyl]amine;  
[4-nitro-2-(1H-tetrazol-5-yl)-phenyl-(4-iodo-2-methyl-phenyl)-amine;  
4-Fluoro-2-(4-iodo-2-methylphenylamino)benzoic acid;  
3,4,5-Trifluoro-2-(4-iodo-2-methyl-phenylamino)-benzoic acid;  
3,4-Difluoro-2-(4-iodo-2-methyl-phenylamino)-benzoic acid;  
5-Bromo-3,4-difluoro-2-(4-iodo-2-methyl-phenylamino)-benzoic acid;  
5-Chloro-2-(4-iodo-2-methyl-phenylamino)-benzoic acid;  
Sodium 5-Chloro-2-(4-iodo-2-methyl-phenylamino)-benzoate;  
5-Bromo-2-(4-iodo-2-methyl-phenylamino)-benzoic acid;  
2-(4-Iodo-2-methyl-phenylamino)-5-nitro-benzoic acid;  
4-Chloro-2-(4-iodo-2-methyl-phenylamino)-benzoic acid;  
2-(4-Iodo-2-methyl-phenylamino)-benzoic acid;  
5-Fluoro-2-(4-iodo-2-methyl-phenylamino)-benzoic acid;  
5-Iodo-2-(4-iodo-2-methyl-phenylamino)-benzoic acid;  
2,3,5-Trifluoro-4-(4-iodo-2-methyl-phenylamino)-benzoic acid;  
2-(4-Iodo-phenylamino)-5-methoxy-benzoic acid;  
5-Methyl-2-(4-iodo-2-methyl-phenylamino)-benzoic acid;  
2-(4-Iodo-2-methyl-phenylamino)-4-nitro-benzoic acid;  
2-(4-Bromo-2-methyl-phenylamino)-4-fluoro-benzoic acid;

2-(2-Bromo-4-iodo-phenylamino)-5-nitro-benzoic acid;  
2-(4-Bromo-2-methyl-phenylamino)-3,4-difluoro-benzoic acid;  
5-Chloro-N-(2-hydroxyethyl)-2-(4-iodo-2-methyl-phenylamino)-benzamide;  
4-Fluoro-2-(4-iodo-2-methyl-phenylamino)-benzamide;  
4-Fluoro-2-(4-iodo-2-methyl-phenylamino)-N-methyl-benzamide;  
N-Ethyl-4-fluoro-2-(4-iodo-2-methyl-phenylamino)-benzamide;  
4-Fluoro-2-(4-iodo-2-methyl-phenylamino)-N,N-dimethyl-benzamide;  
4-Fluoro-2-(4-iodo-2-methyl-phenylamino)-N-(1H-tetrazol-5-yl)-benzamide;  
5-Bromo-2-(4-iodo-2-methyl-phenylamino)-benzamide;  
5-Chloro-2-(4-iodo-2-methyl-phenylamino)-N,N-dimethyl-benzamide;  
[5-Chloro-2-(4-iodo-2-methyl-phenylamino)-benzoylamino]-acetic acid;  
4-Fluoro-2-(4-iodo-2-methyl-phenylamino)-N-propyl-benzamide;  
5-Bromo-N-(2-hydroxy-ethyl)-2-(4-iodo-2-methyl-phenylamino)-benzamide;  
N,N-Diethyl-4-fluoro-2-(4-iodo-2-methyl-phenylamino)-benzamide;  
4-Fluoro-N-{3-[4-(2-hydroxy-ethyl)-piperazin-1-yl]-propyl}-2-(4-iodo-2-methyl-phenylamino)-benzamide;  
N,N-Diethyl-2-(4-iodo-2-methyl-phenylamino)-5-nitro-benzamide;  
N-Butyl-4-fluoro-2-(4-iodo-2-methyl-phenylamino)-benzamide;  
5-Chloro-N,N-diethyl-2-(4-iodo-2-methyl-phenylamino)-benzamide;  
5-Bromo-2-(4-iodo-2-methyl-phenylamino)-N,N-dimethyl-benzamide;  
5-Bromo-3,4-difluoro-N-(2-hydroxy-ethyl)-2-(4-iodo-2-methyl-phenylamino)-benzamide;  
N-(2,3-Dihydroxy-propyl)-3,4-difluoro-2-(4-iodo-2-methyl-phenylamino)-benzamide;  
5-Bromo-3,4-difluoro-2-(4-iodo-2-methyl-phenylamino)-N-(2-piperidin-1-yl-ethyl)-benzamide;  
3,4-Difluoro-N-(2-hydroxy-ethyl)-2-(4-iodo-2-methyl-phenylamino)-benzamide;  
N-(2,3-Dihydroxy-propyl)-4-fluoro-2-(4-iodo-2-methyl-phenylamino)-benzamide;  
3,4-Difluoro-N-(3-hydroxy-propyl)-2-(4-iodo-2-methyl-phenylamino)-benzamide;  
5-Bromo-3,4-difluoro-2-(4-iodo-2-methyl-phenylamino)-N-(2-pyrrolidin-1-yl-ethyl)-benzamide;

5-Bromo-3,4-difluoro-2-(4-iodo-2-methyl-phenylamino)-N-(2-pyridin-4-yl-ethyl)-benzamide;

4-Fluoro-N-(2-hydroxy-ethyl)-2-(4-iodo-2-methyl-phenylamino)-benzamide;

5-Bromo-N-(3-dimethylamino-propyl)-3,4-difluoro-2-(4-iodo-2-methyl-phenylamino)-benzamide;

5-Bromo-3,4-difluoro-2-(4-iodo-2-methyl-phenylamino)-N-(2-morpholin-4-yl-ethyl)-benzamide;

3,4-Difluoro-2-(4-iodo-2-methyl-phenylamino)-N-(2-morpholin-4-yl-ethyl)-benzamide;

3,4-Difluoro-2-(4-iodo-2-methyl-phenylamino)-N-(2-pyrrolidin-1-yl-ethyl)-benzamide;

3,4-Difluoro-2-(4-iodo-2-methyl-phenylamino)-N-(2-pyridin-4-yl-ethyl)-benzamide;

N-(3-Dimethylamino-propyl)-3,4-difluoro-2-(4-iodo-2-methyl-phenylamino)-benzamide;

N-Benzyl-4-fluoro-2-(4-iodo-2-methyl-phenylamino)-benzamide;

2-(4-Bromo-2-methyl-phenylamino)-3,4-difluoro-N-(2-hydroxy-ethyl)-benzamide;

4-Fluoro-2-(4-iodo-2-methyl-phenylamino)-N-(2-morpholin-4-yl-ethyl)-benzamide;

4-Fluoro-2-(4-iodo-2-methyl-phenylamino)-N-(3-piperidin-1-yl-propyl)-benzamide;

3,4-Difluoro-2-(4-iodo-2-methyl-phenylamino)-N-(3-piperidin-1-yl-propyl)-benzamide;

4-Fluoro-2-(4-iodo-2-methyl-phenylamino)-N-(2-thiophen-2-yl-ethyl)-benzamide;

4-Fluoro-2-(4-iodo-2-methyl-phenylamino)-N-(2-pyrrolidin-1-yl-ethyl)-benzamide;

2-(4-Bromo-2-methyl-phenylamino)-3,4-difluoro-N-(2-morpholin-4-yl-ethyl)-benzamide;

5-Bromo-3,4-difluoro-2-(4-iodo-2-methyl-phenylamino)-N-pyridin-4-ylmethylbenzamide;

3,4-Difluoro-2-(4-iodo-2-methyl-phenylamino)-N-pyridin-4-ylmethylbenzamide;

2-(4-Bromo-2-methyl-phenylamino)-N-(3-dimethylamino-propyl)-3,4-difluorobenzamide;

4-Fluoro-2-(4-iodo-2-methyl-phenylamino)-N-pyridin-4-ylmethylbenzamide;

4-Fluoro-2-(4-iodo-2-methyl-phenylamino)-N-(2-pyridin-4-yl-ethyl)-benzamide;

2-(4-Bromo-2-methyl-phenylamino)-3,4-difluoro-N-(2-pyridin-4-yl-ethyl)-benzamide;

2-(4-Bromo-2-methyl-phenylamino)-3,4-difluoro-N-(3-hydroxy-propyl)-benzamide;

2-(4-Bromo-2-methyl-phenylamino)-3,4-difluoro-N-(2-pyrrolidin-1-yl-ethyl)-benzamide;

4-Fluoro-2-(4-iodo-2-methyl-phenylamino)-N-phenethyl-benzamide;

2-(4-Bromo-2-methyl-phenylamino)-3,4-difluoro-N-(2-thiophen-2-yl-ethyl)-benzamide;

2-(4-Bromo-2-methyl-phenylamino)-3,4-difluoro-N-pyridin-4-ylmethyl-benzamide;

2-(4-Bromo-2-methyl-phenylamino)-3,4-difluoro-N-phenethyl-benzamide;

2-(4-Bromo-2-methyl-phenylamino)-3,4-difluoro-N-(2-piperidin-1-yl-ethyl)-benzamide;

5-Chloro-N-{3-[4-(2-hydroxy-ethyl)-piperazin-1-yl]-propyl}-2-(4-iodo-2-methyl-phenylamino)- benzamide;

5-Fluoro-N-{3-[4-(2-hydroxy-ethyl)-piperazin-1-yl]-propyl}-2-(4-iodo-2-methyl-phenylamino)- benzamide;

2-(4-Iodo-2-methyl-phenylamino)-5-nitro-N-pyridin-4-yl methyl-benzamide;

5-Bromo-N-{3-[4-(2-hydroxy-ethyl)-piperazin-1-yl]-propyl}-2-(4-iodo-2-methyl-phenylamino)- benzamide;

5-Chloro-N-(2-diethylamino-ethyl)-2-(4-iodo-2-methyl-phenylamino)- benzamide;

5-Chloro-2-(4-iodo-2-methyl-phenylamino)-N-(2-piperidin-1-yl-ethyl)-benzamide;

(3-Hydroxy-pyrrolidin-1-yl)-[2-(4-iodo-2-methyl-phenylamino)-5-nitro-phenyl]-methanone;

5-Chloro-2-(4-iodo-2-methyl-phenylamino)-N-(2-pyrrolidin-1-yl-ethyl)-benzamide;

5-Bromo-N-(2-diethylamino-ethyl)-2-(4-iodo-2-methyl-phenylamino)- benzamide;

N-{2-[Bis-(2-hydroxy-ethyl)-amino]-ethyl}-5-chloro-2-(4-iodo-2-methyl-phenylamino)- benzamide;

N-{2-[Bis-(2-hydroxy-ethyl)-amino]-ethyl}-5-bromo-2-(4-iodo-2-methyl-phenylamino)- benzamide;

N-{3-[4-(2-Hydroxy-ethyl)-piperazin-1-yl]-propyl}-2-(4-iodo-2-methyl-phenylamino)-benzamide;

5-Fluoro-2-(4-iodo-2-methyl-phenylamino)-N-pyridin-4-ylmethyl-benzamide;

5-Bromo-2-(4-iodo-2-ethyl-phenylamino)-N-(2-pyrrolidin-1-yl-ethyl)-benzamide;

5-Bromo-2-(4-iodo-2-methyl-phenylamino)-N-(2-piperidin-1-yl-ethyl)-benzamide;

5-Fluoro-2-(4-iodo-2-methyl-phenylamino)-N-(2-pyrrolidin-1-yl-ethyl)-benzamide;

5-Chloro-N-(3-dimethylamino-propyl)-2-(4-iodo-2-methyl-phenylamino)-benzamide;  
N-{2-[Bis-(2-hydroxy-ethyl)-amino]-ethyl}-5-fluoro-2-(4-iodo-2-methyl-phenylamino)- benzamide;  
5-Chloro-N-(3-hydroxy-propyl)-2-(4-iodo-2-methyl-phenylamino)-benzamide;  
5-Chloro-N-(3-diethylamino-2-hydroxy-propyl)-2-(4-iodo-2-methyl-phenylamino)-benzamide;  
5-Fluoro-2-(4-iodo-2-methyl-phenylamino)-N-(2-piperidin-1-yl-ethyl)-benzamide;  
5-Bromo-N-(3-hydroxy-propyl)-2-(4-iodo-2-methyl-phenylamino)-benzamide;  
5-Bromo-2-(4-iodo-2-methyl-phenylamino)-N-(3-piperidin-1-yl-propyl)-benzamide;  
N-{2-[Bis-(2-hydroxy-ethyl)-amino]-ethyl}-2-(4-iodo-2-methyl-phenylamino)-5-nitro-benzamide;  
5-Chloro-2-(4-iodo-2-methyl-phenylamino)-N-(2-morpholin-4-yl-ethyl)-benzamide;  
5-Chloro-N-(3-diethylamino-propyl)-2-(4-iodo-2-methyl-phenylamino)-benzamide;  
5-Chloro-N-(2-diisopropylamino-ethyl)-2-(4-iodo-2-methyl-phenylamino)-benzamide;  
5-Chloro-2-(4-iodo-2-methyl-phenylamino)-N-(3-piperidin-1-yl-propyl)-benzamide;  
2-(4-Iodo-2-methyl-phenylamino)-5-nitro-N-(2-piperidin-1-yl-ethyl)-benzamide;  
5-Bromo-2-(4-iodo-2-methyl-phenylamino)-N-(2-piperazin-1-yl-ethyl)-benzamide;  
N-(2-Diethylamino-ethyl)-5-fluoro-2-(4-iodo-2-methyl-phenylamino)-benzamide;  
5-Bromo-N-(3-dimethylamino-propyl)-2-(4-iodo-2-methyl-phenylamino)-benzamide;  
N-(3-Hydroxy-propyl)-2-(4-iodo-2-methyl-phenylamino)-5-nitro-benzamide;  
5-Fluoro-N-(3-hydroxy-propyl)-2-(4-iodo-2-methyl-phenylamino)-benzamide;  
N-(3-Diethylamino-propyl)-5-fluoro-2-(4-iodo-2-methyl-phenylamino)-benzamide;  
N-(3-Diethylamino-propyl)-2-(4-iodo-2-methyl-phenylamino)-5-nitro-benzamide;  
5-Bromo-2-(4-iodo-2-methyl-phenylamino)-N-(2-morpholin-4-yl-ethyl)-benzamide;  
2-(4-Iodo-2-methyl-phenylamino)-5-nitro-N-(3-piperidin-1-yl-propyl)-benzamide;  
[5-Fluoro-2-(4-iodo-2-methyl-phenylamino)-phenyl]-(3-hydroxy-pyrrolidin-1-yl)-methanone;  
5-Bromo-N-(2-diisopropylamino-ethyl)-2-(4-iodo-2-methyl-phenylamino)-benzamide;  
5-Fluoro-2-(4-iodo-2-methyl-phenylamino)-N-(2-morpholin-4-yl-ethyl)-benzamide;  
5-Fluoro-2-(4-iodo-2-methyl-phenylamino)-N-(3-piperidin-1-yl-propyl)-benzamide;

[5-Fluoro-2-(4-iodo-2-methyl-phenylamino)-phenyl]-[4-(2-hydroxy-ethyl)-piperazin-1-yl]-methanone;

N-(3-Diethylamino-2-hydroxy-propyl)-5-fluoro-2-(4-iodo-2-methyl-phenylamino)-benzamide;

N-Cyclopropyl-5-fluoro-2-(4-iodo-2-methyl-phenylamino)-benzamide;

5-Chloro-N-(2-hydroxy-ethyl)-2-(4-iodo-2-methyl-phenylamino)-benzamide;

5-Fluoro-N-(2-hydroxy-ethyl)-2-(4-iodo-2-methyl-phenylamino)-benzamide;

N-Benzyloxy-5-fluoro-2-(4-iodo-2-methyl-phenylamino)-benzamide;

N-Benzyloxy-5-bromo-2-(4-iodo-2-methyl-phenylamino)-benzamide;

2-(4-Iodo-2-methyl-phenylamino)-5-nitro-N-(4-sulfamoyl-benzyl)-benzamide;

5-Bromo-N-(2-hydroxy-ethyl)-2-(4-iodo-2-methyl-phenylamino)-benzamide;

N-(2-Hydroxy-ethyl)-5-iodo-2-(4-iodo-2-methyl-phenylamino)-benzamide;

N-(2-Hydroxy-ethyl)-2-(4-iodo-2-ethyl-phenylamino)-5-nitro-benzamide;

2-(4-Iodo-2-methyl-phenylamino)-N-methyl-5-nitro-N-phenyl-benzamide;

5-Chloro-N-cyclopropyl-2-(4-iodo-2-methyl-phenylamino)-benzamide;

5-Fluoro-2-(4-iodo-2-methyl-phenylamino)-N-methyl-N-phenyl-benzamide;

N-Allyl-5-fluoro-2-(4-iodo-2-methyl-phenylamino)-benzamide;

N-Benzyloxy-5-iodo-2-(4-iodo-2-methyl-phenylamino)-benzamide;

5-Fluoro-2-(4-iodo-2-methyl-phenylamino)-N-(4-sulfamoyl-benzyl)-benzamide;

N-Allyl-5-chloro-2-(4-iodo-2-methyl-phenylamino)-benzamide;

N-Cyclopropyl-2-(4-iodo-2-methyl-phenylamino)-5-nitro-benzamide;

5-Bromo-N-cyclopropyl-2-(4-iodo-2-methyl-phenylamino)-benzamide;

5-Chloro-2-(4-iodo-2-methyl-phenylamino)-N-methyl-N-phenyl-benzamide;

5-Iodo-2-(4-iodo-2-methyl-phenylamino)-N-(4-sulfamoyl-benzyl)-benzamide;

5-Bromo-2-(4-iodo-2-methyl-phenylamino)-N-(4-sulfamoyl-benzyl)-benzamide;

N-Allyl-2-(4-iodo-2-methyl-phenylamino)-5-nitro-benzamide; 2-(4-Iodo-2-methyl-phenylamino)-5-nitro-N-(4-sulfamoyl-benzyl)-benzamide;

N-Allyl-5-bromo-2-(4-iodo-2-methyl-phenylamino)-benzamide;

5-Fluoro-2-(4-iodo-2-methyl-phenylamino)-N-(3-methyl-benzyl)-benzamide;

N-Cyclopropyl-5-iodo-2-(4-iodo-2-methyl-phenylamino)-benzamide;

5-Bromo-2-(4-iodo-2-methyl-phenylamino)-N-methyl-N-phenyl-benzamide;  
N-Benzyloxy-2-(4-iodo-2-methyl-phenylamino)-5-nitro-benzamide;  
N-Cyclohexyl-5-iodo-2-(4-iodo-2-methyl-phenylamino)-benzamide;  
N-Allyl-5-iodo-2-(4-iodo-2-methyl-phenylamino)-benzamide;  
5-Iodo-2-(4-iodo-2-methyl-phenylamino)-N-(3-methyl-benzyl)-benzamide;  
2-(4-Iodo-2-methyl-phenylamino)-N-(3-methyl-benzyl)-5-nitro-benzamide;  
5-Iodo-2-(4-iodo-2-methyl-phenylamino)-N-methyl-N-phenyl-benzamide;  
N-Cyclohexyl-5-fluoro-2-(4-iodo-2-methyl-phenylamino)-benzamide;  
5-Chloro-N-cyclohexyl-2-(4-iodo-2-methyl-phenylamino)-benzamide;  
5-Bromo-2-(4-iodo-2-methyl-phenylamino)-N-(3-methyl-benzyl)-benzamide;  
5-Bromo-N-cyclohexyl-2-(4-iodo-2-methyl-phenylamino)-benzamide;  
5-Chloro-2-(4-iodo-2-methyl-phenylamino)-N-(3-methyl-benzyl)-benzamide;  
N-Cyclohexyl-2-(4-iodo-2-methyl-phenylamino)-5-nitro-benzamide;  
N-Benzyloxy-5-bromo-2-(4-iodo-2-methyl-phenylamino)-benzamide;  
N-Benzyloxy-5-fluoro-2-(4-iodo-2-methyl-phenylamino)-benzamide;  
5-Chloro-N-(2-hydroxy-ethyl)-2-(4-iodo-2-methyl-phenylamino)-benzamide;  
5-Bromo-N-(2-hydroxy-ethyl)-2-(4-iodo-2-methyl-phenylamino)-benzamide;  
2-(4-Iodo-2-methyl-phenylamino)-N-methyl-5-nitro-N-phenyl-benzamide;  
5-Chloro-2-(4-iodo-2-methyl-phenylamino)-N-methyl-N-phenyl-benzamide;  
N-(2-Hydroxy-ethyl)-5-iodo-2-(4-iodo-2-methyl-phenylamino)-benzamide;  
5-Chloro-N-cyclopropyl-2-(4-iodo-2-methyl-phenylamino)-benzamide;  
N-Allyl-5-chloro-2-(4-iodo-2-methyl-phenylamino)-benzamide;  
5-Fluoro-2-(4-iodo-2-methyl-phenylamino)-N-methyl-N-phenyl-benzamide;  
N-(2-Hydroxy-ethyl)-2-(4-iodo-2-methyl-phenylamino)-5-nitro-benzamide;  
5-Fluoro-N-(2-hydroxy-ethyl)-2-(4-iodo-2-methyl-phenylamino)-benzamide;  
5-Bromo-N-cyclopropyl-2-(4-iodo-2-methyl-phenylamino)-benzamide;  
N-Cyclopropyl-5-fluoro-2-(4-iodo-2-methyl-phenylamino)-benzamide;  
5-Fluoro-2-(4-iodo-2-methyl-phenylamino)-N-(4-sulfamoyl-benzyl)-benzamide;  
N-Cyclopropyl-2-(4-iodo-2-methyl-phenylamino)-5-nitro-benzamide;  
N-Allyl-5-fluoro-2-(4-iodo-2-methyl-phenylamino)-benzamide;



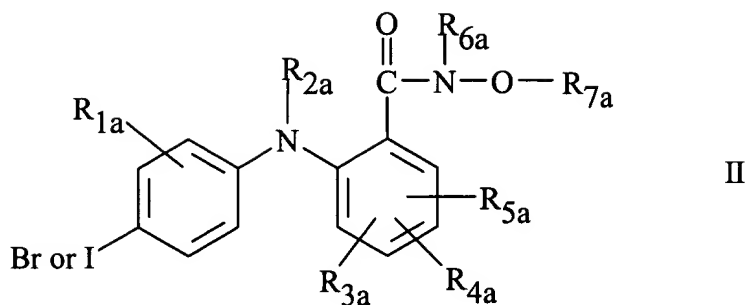
N-Benzyloxy-5-iodo-2-(4-iodo-2-methyl-phenylamino)-benzamide;  
N-Allyl-5-bromo-2-(4-iodo-2-methyl-phenylamino)-benzamide;  
5-Bromo-2-(4-iodo-2-methyl-phenylamino)-N-(4-sulfamoyl-benzyl)-benzamide;  
5-Bromo-2-(4-iodo-2-methyl-phenylamino)-N-methyl-N-phenyl-benzamide;  
N-Allyl-2-(4-iodo-2-methyl-phenylamino)-5-nitro-benzamide;  
4-Fluoro-2-(4-iodo-2-methyl-phenylamino)-benzyl alcohol;  
[5-Chloro-2-(4-iodo-2-methyl-phenylamino)-phenyl]-methanol;  
[2-(4-Iodo-2-methyl-phenylamino)-5-nitro-phenyl]-methanol;  
[5-Bromo-2-(4-iodo-2-methyl-phenylamino)-phenyl]-methanol; and  
N-Allyl-2-(4-iodo-2-methyl-phenylamino)-5-nitro-benzamide.

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt, ester, amide, or prodrug thereof.

Claim 8 (previously presented): The method of claim 6, wherein the MEK inhibitor is a compound of Formula (I) wherein (a)  $R_1$  is hydrogen, methyl, methoxy, fluoro, chloro, or bromo; (b)  $R_2$  is hydrogen; (c)  $R_3$ ,  $R_4$ , and  $R_5$  independently are hydrogen, fluoro, chloro, bromo, iodo, methyl, methoxy, or nitro; (d)  $R_{10}$  and  $R_{11}$  independently are hydrogen or methyl; (e) Z is  $\text{COOR}_7$ , tetrazolyl,  $\text{CONR}_6\text{R}_7$ ,  $\text{CONHNR}_{10}\text{R}_{11}$ , or  $\text{CH}_2\text{OR}_7$ ;  $R_6$  and  $R_7$  independently are hydrogen,  $\text{C}_{1-4}$  alkyl, heteroaryl, or  $\text{C}_{3-5}$  cycloalkyl optionally containing one or two heteroatoms selected from O, S, or NH; or  $R_6$  and  $R_7$  together with the nitrogen to which they are attached complete a 5-6 member cyclic ring optionally containing 1 or 2 additional heteroatoms selected from O, NH or N-alkyl; and wherein any of the foregoing alkyl or aryl groups can be unsubstituted or substituted by halo, hydroxy, methoxy, ethoxy, or heteroaryloxy.

Claim 9 (original): The method of claim 8, wherein the MEK inhibitor is a compound of Formula (I) wherein: Z is  $\text{COOR}_7$ ;  $R_7$  is H, pentafluorophenyl, or tetrazolyl;  $R_3$  and  $R_5$  are independently H, fluoro, or chloro; and  $R_4$  is fluoro.

Claim 10 (previously presented): A method for treating arthritis comprising administering to a patient suffering from arthritis and effective antiarthritic amount of a MEK inhibitor, wherein the MEK inhibitor is a compound of Formula II



wherein:

$R_{1a}$  is hydrogen, hydroxy,  $C_1$ - $C_8$  alkyl,  $C_1$ - $C_8$  alkoxy, halo, trifluoromethyl, or CN;

$R_{2a}$  is hydrogen;

$R_{3a}$ ,  $R_{4a}$ , and  $R_{5a}$  independently are hydrogen, hydroxy, halo, trifluoromethyl,  $C_1$ - $C_8$  alkyl,  $C_1$ - $C_8$  alkoxy, nitro, CN, or  $(O \text{ or } NH)_m-(CH_2)_n-R_{9a}$ , where  $R_{9a}$  is hydrogen, hydroxy,  $CO_2H$  or  $NR_{10a}R_{11a}$ .

$n$  is 0-4;

$m$  is 0 or 1;

$R_{10a}$  and  $R_{11a}$  independently are hydrogen or  $C_1$ - $C_8$  alkyl, or taken together with the nitrogen to which they are attached can complete a 3- to 10-member cyclic ring optionally containing one, two, or three additional heteroatoms selected from O, S, NH, or N- $C_1$ - $C_8$  alkyl;

$R_{6a}$  is hydrogen,  $C_1$ - $C_8$  alkyl,  $(CO)$ - $C_1$ - $C_8$  alkyl, aryl, aralkyl, or  $C_3$ - $C_{10}$  cycloalkyl;

$R_{7a}$  is hydrogen,  $C_1$ - $C_8$  alkyl,  $C_2$ - $C_8$  alkenyl,  $C_2$ - $C_8$  alkynyl,  $C_3$ - $C_{10}$  (cycloalkyl or cycloalkyl optionally containing a heteroatom selected from O, S, or  $NR_{9a}$ );

and wherein any of the foregoing alkyl, alkenyl, aryl, heteroaryl, heterocyclic, and alkynyl groups can be unsubstituted or substituted by halo, hydroxy,  $C_1$ - $C_6$  alkoxy, amino, nitro,  $C_1$ - $C_4$  alkylamino, di( $C_1$ - $C_4$ )alkylamino,  $C_3$ - $C_6$  cycloalkyl, phenyl, phenoxy,  $C_3$ - $C_5$  heteroaryl or heterocyclic radical, or  $C_3$ - $C_5$  heteroaryloxy or heterocyclic radical-oxy; or  $R_{6a}$  and  $R_{7a}$  taken together with the N to which they are attached can complete a 5- to 10-membered cyclic ring, optionally

containing one, two, or three additional heteroatoms selected from O, S, or

NR<sub>10a</sub>R<sub>11a</sub>;

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt, ester, amide or prodrug thereof.

Claim 11 (original): The method of Claim 10, comprising a MEK inhibitor having a structure of Formula (II) wherein: (a) R<sub>1a</sub> is H, methyl, fluoro, or chloro; (b) R<sub>2a</sub> is H; R<sub>3a</sub>, R<sub>4a</sub>, and R<sub>5a</sub> are each H, Cl, nitro, or F; (c) R<sub>6a</sub> is H; (d) R<sub>7a</sub> is methyl, ethyl, 2-propenyl, propyl, butyl, pentyl, hexyl, cyclopropylmethyl, cyclobutyl methyl, cyclopropylmethyl, or cyclopropylethyl; and (e) the 4' position is I, rather than Br.

Claim 12 (original): The method of claim 11, comprising a MEK inhibitor having a structure of Formula (II) wherein: R<sub>4a</sub> is F at the 4 position, para to the CO-N-R<sub>6a</sub>-OR<sub>7a</sub> group and meta to the bridging nitrogen; at least one of R<sub>3a</sub> and R<sub>5a</sub> is F or Cl; and R<sub>1a</sub> is methyl or chloro.

Claim 13 (currently amended): The method of Claim 10, comprising a MEK inhibitor having a formula selected from:

4-Fluoro-N-hydroxy-2-(4-iodo-2-methyl-phenylamino)-benzamide;  
4-Fluoro-2-(4-iodo-2-methyl-phenylamino)-N-(methoxy)-benzamide;  
4-Fluoro-2-(4-iodo-2-methyl-phenylamino)-N-(prop-2-ynyloxy)-benzamide;  
4-Fluoro-2-(4-iodo-2-methyl-phenylamino)-N-(2-phenoxyethoxy)-benzamide;  
4-Fluoro-2-(4-iodo-2-methyl-phenylamino)-N-(2-thienylmethoxy)-benzamide;  
4-Fluoro-2-(4-iodo-2-methyl-phenylamino)-N-(prop-2-enyloxy)-benzamide;  
4-Fluoro-2-(4-iodo-2-methyl-phenylamino)-N-(cyclopropylmethoxy)-benzamide;  
4-Fluoro-2-(4-iodo-2-methyl-phenylamino)-N-(cyclopentoxo)-benzamide;  
3,4-Difluoro-2-(4-iodo-2-methyl-phenylamino)-N-(3-furylmethoxy)-benzamide;  
3,4-Difluoro-2-(4-iodo-2-methyl-phenylamino)-N-ethoxy-benzamide;  
3,4-Difluoro-2-(4-iodo-2-methyl-phenylamino)-N-(but-2-enyloxy)-benzamide;  
3,4-Difluoro-2-(4-iodo-2-methyl-phenylamino)-N-(cyclopropylmethoxy)-benzamide;  
3,4-Difluoro-2-(4-iodo-2-methyl-phenylamino)-N-(1-methylprop-2-ynyloxy)-  
benzamide;

3,4-Difluoro-2-(4-iodo-2-methyl-phenylamino)-N-(3-phenylprop-2-ynyloxy)-benzamide;

3,4-Difluoro-2-(4-iodo-2-methyl-phenylamino)-N-(3-methyl-5-phenylpent-2-en-4-ynyloxy)-benzamide;

3,4-Difluoro-2-(4-iodo-2-methyl-phenylamino)-N-(prop-2-ynyloxy)-benzamide;

3,4-Difluoro-2-(4-iodo-2-methyl-phenylamino)-N-(propoxy)-benzamide;

3,4-Difluoro-2-(4-iodo-2-methyl-phenylamino)-N-(cyclobutyloxy)-benzamide;

3,4-Difluoro-2-(4-iodo-2-methyl-phenylamino)-N-(2-thienylmethoxy)-benzamide;

3,4-Difluoro-2-(4-iodo-2-methyl-phenylamino)-N-(2-methyl-prop-2-enyloxy)-benzamide;

3,4-Difluoro-2-(4-iodo-2-methyl-phenylamino)-N-(2-phenoxyethoxy)-benzamide;

3,4-Difluoro-2-(4-iodo-2-methyl-phenylamino)-N-(but-2-enyloxy)-benzamide;

3,4-Difluoro-2-(4-iodo-2-methyl-phenylamino)-N-(but-3-ynyloxy)-benzamide;

3,4-Difluoro-2-(4-iodo-2-methyl-phenylamino)-N-(cyclopentyloxy)-benzamide;

3,4-Difluoro-2-(4-iodo-2-methyl-phenylamino)-N-(3-(2-fluorophenyl)-prop-2-ynyloxy)-benzamide;

5-Bromo-3,4-difluoro-N-hydroxy-2-(4-iodo-2-methyl-phenylamino)-benzamide;

5-Bromo-3,4-difluoro-2-(4-iodo-2-methyl-phenylamino)-N-(n-propoxy)-benzamide;

5-Bromo-3,4-difluoro-N-(furan-3-ylmethoxy)-2-(4-iodo-2-methyl-phenylamino)-benzamide;

5-Bromo-N-(but-2-enyloxy)-3,4-difluoro-2-(4-iodo-2-methyl-phenylamino)-benzamide

5-Bromo-N-butoxy-3,4-difluoro-2-(4-iodo-2-methyl-phenylamino)-benzamide;

5-Bromo-3,4-difluoro-2-(4-iodo-2-methyl-phenylamino)-N-(3-methyl-but-2-enyloxy)-benzamide;

5-Bromo-3,4-difluoro-2-(4-iodo-2-methyl-phenylamino)-N-(3-methyl-pent-2-en-4-ynyloxy)-benzamide;

5-Bromo-3,4-difluoro-2-(4-iodo-2-methyl-benzyl)-N-[5-(3-methoxy-phenyl)-3-methyl-pent-2-en-4-ynyloxy]-benzamide;

5-Bromo-3,4-difluoro-2-(4-iodo-2-methyl-phenylamino)-N-(prop-2-ynyloxy)-benzamide;

5-Bromo-3,4-difluoro-2-(4-iodo-2-methyl-phenylamino)-N-[3-(3-methoxy-phenyl)-prop-2-ynyloxy]-benzamide;

5-Bromo-3,4-difluoro-2-(4-iodo-2-methyl-phenylamino)-N-(thiopen-2-ylmethoxy)-benzamide;

5-Bromo-3,4-difluoro-2-(4-iodo-2-methyl-phenylamino)-N-(pyridin-3-ylmethoxy)-benzamide;

5-Bromo-3,4-difluoro-2-(4-iodo-2-methyl-phenylamino)-N-(3-(2-fluorophenyl)-prop-2-ynyloxy)-benzamide;

5-Bromo-3,4-difluoro-2-(4-iodo-2-methyl-phenylamino)-N-(ethoxy)-benzamide;

5-Bromo-3,4-difluoro-2-(4-iodo-2-methyl-phenylamino)-N-(cyclopropylmethoxy)-benzamide;

5-Bromo-3,4-difluoro-2-(4-iodo-2-methyl-phenylamino)-N-(isopropoxy)-benzamide;

5-Bromo-3,4-difluoro-2-(4-iodo-2-methyl-phenylamino)-N-but-3-ynyloxy)-benzamide;

5-Chloro-N-hydroxy-2-(4-iodo-2-methyl-phenylamino)-benzamide;

5-Chloro-2-(4-iodo-2-methyl-phenylamino)-N-(tetrahydro-pyran-2-yloxy)-benzamide;

5-Chloro-2-(4-iodo-2-methyl-phenylamino)-N-methoxy-benzamide;

4-Bromo-2-(4-iodo-2-methyl-phenylamino)-N-phenylmethoxy-benzamide;

4-Fluoro-2-(4-iodo-2-methyl-phenylamino)-N-phenylmethoxy-benzamide;

5-Fluoro-N-hydroxy-2-(4-iodo-2-methyl-phenylamino)-benzamide;

5-Iodo-2-(4-iodo-2-methyl-phenylamino)-N-phenylmethoxy-benzamide;

5-Fluoro-2-(4-iodo-2-methyl-phenylamino)-N-(tetrahydropyran-2-yloxy)-benzamide;

3,4-Difluoro-2-(4-bromo-2-methyl-phenylamino)-N-(3-phenylprop-2-ynyloxy)-benzamide;

3,4-Difluoro-2-(4-bromo-2-methyl-phenylamino)-N-(3-furylmethoxy)-benzamide;

3,4-Difluoro-2-(4-bromo-2-methyl-phenylamino)-N-(2-thienylmethoxy)-benzamide;

3,4-Difluoro-2-(4-bromo-2-methyl-phenylamino)-N-(but-3-ynyloxy)-benzamide;

3,4-Difluoro-2-(4-bromo-2-methyl-phenylamino)-N-(2-methyl-prop-2-ynyloxy)-benzamide;

3,4-Difluoro-2-(4-bromo-2-methyl-phenylamino)-N-(but-2-ynyloxy)-benzamide;

3,4-Difluoro-2-(4-bromo-2-methyl-phenylamino)-N-(methoxy)-benzamide;

3,4-Difluoro-2-(4-bromo-2-methyl-phenylamino)-N-(ethoxy)-benzamide;  
3,4-Difluoro-2-(4-bromo-2-methyl-phenylamino)-N-(cyclobutoxy)-benzamide;  
3,4-Difluoro-2-(4-bromo-2-methyl-phenylamino)-N-(isopropoxy)-benzamide;  
3,4-Difluoro-2-(4-bromo-2-methyl-phenylamino)-N-(2-phenoxyethoxy)-benzamide;  
3,4-Difluoro-2-(4-bromo-2-methyl-phenylamino)-N-(cyclopropylmethoxy)-benzamide;  
3,4-Difluoro-2-(4-bromo-2-methyl-phenylamino)-N-(n-propoxy)-benzamide;  
3,4-Difluoro-2-(4-bromo-2-methyl-phenylamino)-N-(1-methyl-prop-2-ynyloxy)-  
benzamide;  
3,4-Difluoro-2-(4-bromo-2-methyl-phenylamino)-N-(3-(3-fluorophenyl)-prop-  
2-ynyloxy)-benzamide;  
3,4-Difluoro-2-(4-bromo-2-methyl-phenylamino)-N-(4,4-dimethylpent-2-ynyloxy)-  
benzamide;  
3,4-Difluoro-2-(4-bromo-2-methyl-phenylamino)-N-(cyclopentoxo)-benzamide;  
3,4,5-Trifluoro-N-hydroxy-2-(4-iodo-2-methyl-phenylamino)-benzamide;  
5-Chloro-3,4-difluoro-N-hydroxy-2-(4-iodo-2-methyl-phenylamino)-benzamide;  
5-Bromo-3,4-difluoro-2-(2-fluoro-4-iodo-phenylamino)-N-hydroxy-benzamide;  
N-Hydroxy-2-(4-iodo-2-methyl-phenylamino)-4-nitro-benzamide;  
3,4,5-Trifluoro-2-(2-fluoro-4-iodo-phenylamino)-N-hydroxy-benzamide;  
5-Chloro-3,4-difluoro-2-(2-fluoro-4-iodo-phenylamino)-N-hydroxy-benzamide;  
5-Bromo-2-(2-chloro-4-iodo-phenylamino)-3,4-difluoro-N-hydroxy-benzamide;  
2-(2-Fluoro-4-iodo-phenylamino)-N-hydroxy-4-nitro-benzamide;  
2-(2-Chloro-4-iodo-phenylamino)-3,4,5-trifluoro-N-hydroxy-benzamide;  
5-Chloro-2-(2-chloro-4-iodo-phenylamino)-3,4-difluoro-N-hydroxy-benzamide;  
5-Bromo-2-(2-bromo-4-iodo-phenylamino)-3,4-difluoro-N-hydroxy-benzamide;  
2-(2-Chloro-4-iodo-phenylamino)-N-hydroxy-4-methyl-benzamide;  
2-(2-Bromo-4-iodo-phenylamino)-3,4,5-trifluoro-N-hydroxy-benzamide;  
2-(2-Bromo-4-iodo-phenylamino)-5-chloro-3,4-difluoro-N-hydroxy-benzamide;  
2-(2-Bromo-4-iodo-phenylamino)-N-hydroxy-4-nitro-benzamide;  
4-Fluoro-2-(2-fluoro-4-iodo-phenylamino)-N-hydroxy-benzamide;  
3,4-Difluoro-2-(2-fluoro-4-iodo-phenylamino)-N-hydroxy-benzamide;

2-(2-Chloro-4-iodo-phenylamino)-4-fluoro-N-hydroxy-benzamide;  
2-(2-Chloro-4-iodo-phenylamino)-3,4-difluoro-N-hydroxy-benzamide;  
2-(2-Bromo-4-iodo-phenylamino)-4-fluoro-N-hydroxy-benzamide;  
2-(2-Bromo-4-iodo-phenylamino)-3,4-difluoro-N-hydroxy-benzamide;  
N-Cyclopropylmethoxy-3,4,5-trifluoro-2-(4-iodo-2-methyl-phenylamino)-benzamide;  
5-Chloro-N-cyclopropylmethoxy-3,4-difluoro-2-(4-iodo-2-methyl-phenylamino)-  
benzamide;  
5-Bromo-N-cyclopropylmethoxy-3,4-difluoro-2-(2-fluoro-4-iodo-phenylamino)-  
benzamide;  
N-Cyclopropylmethoxy-2-(4-iodo-2-methyl-phenylamino)-4-nitro-benzamide;  
N-Cyclopropylmethoxy-3,4,5-trifluoro-2-(2-fluoro-4-iodo-phenylamino)-benzamide;  
5-Chloro-N-cyclopropylmethoxy-3,4-difluoro-2-(2-fluoro-4-iodo-phenylamino)-  
benzamide;  
5-Bromo-2-(2-chloro-4-iodo-phenylamino)-N-cyclopropylmethoxy-3,4-difluoro-  
benzamide;  
N-Cyclopropylmethoxy-2-(2-fluoro-4-iodo-phenylamino)-4-nitro-benzamide;  
2-(2-Chloro-4-iodo-phenylamino)-N-cyclopropylmethoxy-3,4,5-trifluoro-benzamide;  
5-Chloro-2-(2-chloro-4-iodo-phenylamino)-N-cyclopropylmethoxy-3,4-difluoro-  
benzamide;  
5-Bromo-2-(2-bromo-4-iodo-phenylamino)-N-ethoxy-3,4-difluoro-benzamide;  
2-(2-Chloro-4-iodo-phenylamino)-N-ethoxy-4-nitro-benzamide;  
2-(2-Bromo-4-iodo-phenylamino)-N-cyclopropylmethoxy-3,4,5-trifluoro-benzamide;  
2-(2-Bromo-4-iodo-phenylamino)-5-chloro-N-cyclopropylmethoxy-3,4-difluoro-  
benzamide  
2-(2-Bromo-4-iodo-phenylamino)-N-cyclopropylmethoxy-4-nitro-benzamide;  
N-Cyclopropylmethoxy-4-fluoro-2-(2-fluoro-4-iodo-phenylamino)-benzamide;  
N-Cyclopropylmethoxy-3,4-difluoro-2-(2-fluoro-4-iodo-phenylamino)-benzamide;  
2-(2-Chloro-4-iodo-phenylamino)-N-cyclopropylmethoxy-4-fluoro-benzamide;  
2-(2-Chloro-4-iodo-phenylamino)-N-cyclopropylmethoxy-3,4-difluoro-benzamide;  
2-(2-Bromo-4-iodo-phenylamino)-N-cyclopropylmethoxy-4-fluoro-benzamide; and

2-(2-Bromo-4-iodo-phenylamino)-N-cyclopropylmethoxy-3,4-difluoro-benzamide-;  
or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt, ester, amide, or prodrug thereof.

Claim 14 (currently amended): The method of claim 1, comprising a MEK inhibitor having a structure selected from:

2-(2-chloro-4-iodophenylamino)-5-chloro-N-cyclopropylmethoxy -3,4-difluorobenzamide;  
2-(4-iodophenylamino)-N-cyclopropylmethoxy-5-chloro-3,4-difluorobenzamide;  
2-(4-iodophenylamino)-5-chloro-3,4-difluorobenzoic acid;  
2-(2-chloro-4-iodophenylamino)-5-chloro-3,4-difluorobenzoic acid;  
5-chloro-3,4-difluoro-2-(4-iodo-2-methylphenylamino)-benzoic acid; and  
5-chloro-N-cyclopropylmethoxy -3,4-difluoro-2-(4-iodo-2-methylphenylamino)-benzamide ;

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt, ester, amide, or prodrug thereof.

Claim 15 (currently amended): A method of treating ~~or preventing~~ arthritis in a patient in need of treatment, or suspected of developing arthritis, said method comprising the step of administering an effective antiarthritic amount of a compound selected from:

2-(2-Chloro-4-iodophenylamino)-N-cyclopropylmethoxy-3,4-difluorobenzamide;  
2-(2-Methyl-4-iodophenylamino)-N-hydroxy-4-fluorobenzamide;  
2-(2-Methyl-4-iodophenylamino)-N-hydroxy-3,4-difluoro-5-bromobenzamide;  
2-(2-Methyl-4-iodophenylamino)-N-cyclopropylmethoxy-3,4-difluoro-5-bromobenzamide;  
2-(2-Methyl-4-iodophenylamino)-N-cyclobutylmethoxy-3,4-difluoro-5-bromobenzamide;  
2-(2-Chloro-4-iodophenylamino)-N-cyclopropylmethoxy-3,4-difluoro-5-bromobenzamide;  
2-(2-Chloro-4-iodophenylamino)-N-hydroxy-3,4-difluoro-5-bromobenzamide;  
2-(2-Chloro-4-iodophenylamino)-N-cyclobutylmethoxy-3,4-difluorobenzamide;  
2-(2-Chloro-4-iodophenylamino)-N-hydroxy-4-fluorobenzamide;



2-(2-Methyl-4-iodophenylamino)-N-hydroxy-3,4-difluorobenzamide;  
2-(2-Methyl-4-iodophenylamino)-N-cyclopropylmethoxy-3,4,5-trifluorobenzamide; and  
2-(2-Chloro-4-iodophenylamino)-N-cyclopropylmethoxy-4-fluorobenzamide- ;  
or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt, ester, amide, or prodrug thereof.

Claim 16 (currently amended): The method of Claim 15 wherein said compound is selected from

2-(2-chloro-4-iodophenylamino)-N-cyclopropylmethoxy-3,4-difluorobenzamide;  
2-(2-Methyl-4-iodophenylamino)-N-cyclopropylmethoxy-3,4,5-trifluorobenzamide; and  
2-(2-Chloro-4-iodophenylamino)-N-cyclopropylmethoxy-4-fluorobenzamide- ;  
or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt, ester, amide, or prodrug thereof.

Claim 17 (currently amended): A method of treating or reducing the risk of arthritis in a patient in need of treatment, or suspected of developing arthritis, said method comprising the step of administering an effective antiarthritic amount of 2-(2-Chloro-4-iodophenylamino)-N-cyclopropylmethoxy-3,4-difluorobenzamide-, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

Claim 18 (previously presented): The method of Claim 8, wherein the MEK inhibitor is a compound of Formula (I) wherein: Z is COOR<sub>7</sub>; R<sub>7</sub> is H, pentafluorophenyl, or tetrazolyl; and R<sub>3</sub>, R<sub>4</sub>, and R<sub>5</sub> are independently H, fluoro, or chloro.

Claim 19 (previously presented): The method of Claim 8, wherein the MEK inhibitor is a compound of Formula (I) wherein: Z is COOR<sub>7</sub>; R<sub>7</sub> is H, pentafluorophenyl, or tetrazolyl; and R<sub>3</sub>, R<sub>4</sub>, and R<sub>5</sub> independently are fluoro.

Claim 20 (previously presented): A method for treating rheumatoid arthritis comprising administering to a patient suffering from rheumatoid arthritis a therapeutically effective amount of 2-(2-Chloro-4-iodophenylamino)-N-cyclopropylmethoxy-3,4-difluorobenzamide, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

Claim 21 (previously presented): A method for treating osteoarthritis comprising administering to a patient suffering from osteoarthritis a therapeutically effective amount of 2-(2-Chloro-4-iodophenylamino)-N-cyclopropylmethoxy-3,4-difluorobenzamide, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

Claim 22 (new): The method for treating arthritis of Claim 6 wherein the arthritis is rheumatoid arthritis.

Claim 23 (new): The method for treating arthritis of Claim 6 wherein the arthritis is osteoarthritis.